

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An insert formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel ~~having first means for receiving~~ configured to receive a first end of the product ~~therein~~ when the product comes into contact with said first side panel;

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said second side panel ~~having second means for receiving~~ configured to receive a second end of the product ~~therein~~ when the product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect the product, said bottom panel configured to prevent the product from extending into said bottom air cell.

2. (Original) The insert as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one spacer tab extending outwardly from said first side air cell opposite said first side panel and at least one spacer tab extending outwardly from said second side air cell opposite said second side panel, each said spacer tab configured to provide protection to said first and second side air cells when said insert is packed inside of a box.

3. (Original) The insert as defined in claim 1, wherein said bottom panel has a panel which is configured to be folded into said bottom air cell in order to stabilize said bottom air cell.

4. (Original) The insert as defined in claim 3, wherein said panel of said bottom panel has a tab portion thereon, and wherein said bottom air cell has a hole associated therewith, said tab portion of said panel of said bottom panel configured to be inserted and locked into said hole associated with said bottom air cell.

5. (Original) The insert as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said air cells of said insert are formed by folding the corrugated fibreboard blank and by securing a first portion of the corrugated fibreboard blank to a second portion of the corrugated fibreboard blank with an adhesive.

6. (Original) The insert as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said air cells of said insert are formed by folding the corrugated fibreboard blank and by inserting locking tabs of the corrugated fibreboard blank into holes of the corrugated fibreboard blank.

7. (Currently amended) An ~~The~~ insert as defined in ~~claim 1~~, wherein formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel configured to receive a first end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said first side panel;

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said second side panel configured to receive a second end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel and said first side air cell are configured to fold outwardly or inwardly relative to said bottom panel and said bottom air cell in order to adjust to different sizes of the product.

8. (Currently amended) The insert as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, wherein said second side panel and said second side air cell are configured to fold outwardly or inwardly relative to said bottom panel and said bottom air cell in order to adjust to different sizes of the product.

9. (Previously presented) A method of forming an insert which is used for receiving and protecting a product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a blank having anchoring tabs;

folding a first portion of said blank over onto a second portion of said blank;

securing said first portion of said blank to said second portion of said blank to form said blank into a generally tubular structure which is separated into a first air cell, a second air cell and a third air cell;

folding said first air cell generally perpendicularly to said second air cell, at least one of said anchoring tabs of said blank being associated with said first air cell; and

folding said third air cell generally perpendicularly to said second air cell such that said third air cell faces said first air cell, at least one of said anchoring tabs of said blank being associated with said third air cell.

10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

providing said blank with an adhesive on said first portion thereof; and

securing said first portion of said blank to said second portion of said blank with said adhesive.

11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

providing said blank with at least one locking tab and at least one hole for receiving said at least one locking tab; and

inserting said at least one locking tab into said at least one hole in order to secure said first portion of said blank to said second portion of said blank.

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

providing said blank with a panel such that when said panel is folded said panel is associated with said second air cell; and

folding said panel into said second air cell in order to stabilize said second air cell.

13. (Previously presented) A method of securing a product within an insert, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the insert which is formed from a blank, the insert having a first side panel associated with a first side air cell, a second side panel associated with a second side air cell, and a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell, said first side panel being at least partially joined to said bottom panel, said second side panel being at least partially joined to said bottom panel, said first and second side panels being foldable relative to said bottom panel;

providing said first side panel with at least one anchoring tab;

providing said second side panel with at least one anchoring tab;

positioning the product on said bottom panel of the insert;

folding said first side panel until a first end of the product pushes against said at least one anchoring tab of said first side panel such that said at least one anchoring tab of said first side panel is folded into said first side air cell and such that said first end of the product is secured within said first side air cell; and

folding said second side panel until a second end of the product pushes against said at least one anchoring tab of said second side panel such that said at least one anchoring tab of said second side panel is folded into said second side air cell and such that said second end of the product is secured within said second side air cell.

14. (Currently amended) A method of forming an insert for receiving and protecting a product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a generally rectangular blank which is folded over onto itself and is secured to itself by an adhesive, said folded blank configured to lay flat such that it has a first end defined by a first fold line and a second end defined by a second fold line;

positioning said first fold line of said folded blank against a surface;

pushing down on said folded blank at said second fold line to form a tubular insert having first, second and third portions from said folded blank, said first portion of said tubular insert being connected to said second portion of said tubular insert and having at least one anchoring tab for receiving a first portion of the product therein, said third portion of said tubular insert being connected to said second portion of said tubular insert and having at least one anchoring tab for receiving a second portion of the product therein;

folding said first portion of said tubular insert relative to said second portion of said tubular insert; and

folding said third portion of said tubular insert relative to said second portion of said tubular insert such that said at least one anchoring tab of said third portion of said tubular insert faces said at least one anchoring tab of said first portion of said tubular portion.

15. (Currently amended) An insert ~~as defined in claim 1, wherein~~ formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel having ~~said first receiving means~~ is at least one anchor tab which is configured to be folded into said first side air cell when a first end of the product comes into contact with said first side panel, ~~and wherein;~~

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said second side panel having ~~said second receiving means~~ is at least one anchor tab which is configured to be folded into said second side air cell when a second end of the product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect the product.

16. (Currently amended) An insert ~~as defined in claim 1, wherein~~ formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel configured to receive a first end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said first side panel;

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said second side panel configured to receive a second end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect the product, the corrugated fibreboard blank includes said bottom panel, a first panel, a second panel which connects said bottom panel to said first panel, and a third panel which connects said bottom panel to said first panel, said second and third panel being separated from one another such that said bottom panel, said first panel, said second panel, and said third panel define said bottom air cell being defined by said bottom panel, a first panel, a second panel and a third panel, each of which are provided in the corrugated fibreboard blank, said second panel connects said bottom panel to said first panel, said third panel connects said bottom panel to said first panel, said second and third panels being separated from one another.

17. (Currently amended) An insert as defined in claim 16, wherein said bottom panel and said first panel are generally ~~co-planar with~~ parallel to one another, and wherein said second panel and said third panel are generally ~~co-planar with~~ parallel to one another.

18. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 16, wherein said first panel includes a pair of bottom air cell panels, and wherein said second and third panels are splayed panels.

19. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 1, wherein said bottom air cell is defined at both a top and a bottom thereof by portions of the corrugated fibreboard blank.

20. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 1, wherein said bottom panel is configured to be suspended between said first and second side panels.

21. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein said first side panel is at least partially joined to said bottom panel along partially cut lines formed in said blank, and wherein said second side panel is at least partially joined to said bottom panel along partially cut lines formed in said blank.

22. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said first portion of said tubular insert is at least partially connected to said second portion of said tubular insert by a first partially cut fold line, and wherein said third portion of said tubular insert is at least partially connected to said second portion of said tubular insert by a second partially cut fold line.

23. (Previously presented) An insert for receiving, cradling, and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a corrugated fibreboard blank divided by fold and cut lines to enable the blank to be folded into a cradle configuration,

said folding forming a bottom panel over an associated bottom air cell and a pair of vertical cradle panels with an associated vertical cradle air cell on each end of said bottom panel; and

product anchoring tabs on said pair of vertical cradle panels for securing a product in place between said vertical cradle panels and said bottom air cell.

24. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 23, wherein said vertical cradle panels and their associated vertical cradle air cells fold slightly outwardly or inwardly relative to said bottom air cell in order to adjust to different lengths of the product.

25. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 24 and an outer box for receiving said insert and for fixing a distance between the outwardly or inwardly folded vertical cradle panels.

26. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 25 and spacer tabs on each of said vertical cradle panel adjacent air cells for forming additional air cells between said adjacent air cells and end walls of said outer box.

27. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 23, wherein said insert is formed and stabilized into said cradle configuration by use of only said corrugated fibreboard blank.

28. (Previously presented) An insert as defined in claim 23, wherein said bottom air cell is bounded at a top thereof by said bottom panel and is bounded at a bottom thereof by a portion of said corrugated fibreboard blank.

29. (Previously presented) A corrugated fibreboard blank for forming a structure to receive and protect a toner cartridge for a printer,

said structure being formed by folding an integral generally rectangular corrugated fibreboard blank in order to form a cradle configuration for receiving ends and for supporting a bottom surface of the toner cartridge;

said cradle being formed of three integrally formed air cells, which are joined to provide two end cells and a central cell positioned between said two end cells;

said central air cell having a bottom panel for supporting the bottom surface of the toner cartridge; and

said two end air cells having anchoring flaps which receive opposite ends of the toner cartridge.

30. (Currently amended) The insert of claim 29, wherein said corrugated fibreboard blank is divided by fold and cut lines to enable the integral blank to be folded into the structure;

said folding forming said bottom panel over said central air cell and a vertical cradle panel for each of said two end air cells, said ~~adjacent~~ vertical cradle panels being joined to opposite ends of said bottom panel, respectively; and

said anchoring flaps being on said ~~vertical~~ vertical panels for securing said ends of the toner cartridge in place within the structure.

31. (Previously presented) A blank for cradling a product, said blank comprising:
a longitudinal bottom panel flanked by side panels joined to outer panels;
said longitudinal bottom panel having opposite ends with a central cradle panel joined to and extending from each of said opposite ends of said longitudinal bottom panel;
each of said side panels comprises a centrally located splayed panel positioned between outer portions of said side panel, said centrally located splayed panel connected to a side of said longitudinal bottom panel, each of said outer panels having a centrally located bottom air cell panel joined to and extending from said splayed panel; and
an outer cradle panel connected to each of said outer portions of each said side panel and adjacent said bottom air cell panels.

32. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 31 and product anchor tabs on each said central cradle panel.

33. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 31, wherein said side panels are configured to fold generally perpendicular to said bottom panel and said outer panels configured to fold into face to face contact over said bottom panel thereby forming a tubular structure.

34. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 33, wherein said tubular structure is divided into three parts.

35. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 34, wherein partially cut lines divide said tubular structure into said three parts.

36. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 35, wherein said partially cut lines enable said folding of said blank into said tubular structure.

37. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 36, wherein said partially cut lines break apart responsive to folding said tubular structure into a somewhat U-shaped structure.

38. (Previously presented) A blank as defined in claim 34, wherein said three parts are configured to be folded relative to one another in order to fold said tubular structure into a somewhat U-shaped structure.

39. (New) An insert formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel configured to receive a first end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said first side panel;

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said second side panel configured to receive a second end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel and said first side air cell are configured to fold outwardly relative to said bottom panel and said bottom air cell upon receiving the product in order to adjust to different sizes of the product.

40. (New) An insert formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting a product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said first side panel configured to receive a first end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said first side panel;

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect the product, said second side panel configured to receive a second end of the product therein when the product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect the product, whereby upon said first and second side panels receiving the product, said bottom panel is not pressed downwardly into said bottom air cell and said first and second side panels are not pulled toward one another.

41. (New) An insert formed from a corrugated fibreboard blank for receiving and protecting one of a first and second product, wherein the first product has a shape and configuration which is different than the second product, said insert comprising:

a first side panel associated with a first side air cell which is configured to protect either the first or second product, said first side panel configured to receive a first end of either the first or second product therein when either the first or second product comes into contact with said first side panel;

a second side panel associated with a second side air cell which is configured to protect either the first or second product, said second side panel configured to receive a second end of either the first or second product therein when either the first or second product comes into contact with said second side panel; and

a bottom panel associated with a bottom air cell which is configured to protect either the first or second product.